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the excellence of the contents. One regrets that the edition of so pleasing a book should be limited to a few copies.

CYCLOPEDIA OF LAW AND PROCEDURE. Edited by William Mack and Howard P. Nash. Vol. I. A to *Affidatus*. New York: American Law Book Company. 1901. pp. v, 1160. 4to.

As the editors remark in their preface, "the cyclopedic method of treatment is far from being a new one in the law,"—and naturally so, for it tends to produce exceedingly useful books. A single series of volumes may by this method offer an abridgment of the whole law, conveniently arranged, and fortified by full collections of the authorities on every question. Such works, well done, are invaluable to student and practitioner. For reference, they fill the place of a library of text-books. Because of their more elaborate and exact analysis, they are often more useful as indexes of decided cases than the current digests.

The merits of the present work can justly be determined only by actual use. The arrangement is perhaps not unexceptionable. Such topics as "Accomplices" and "Accommodation Paper" are not dealt with under those heads, but under the general titles, "Criminal Law" and "Bills and Notes." There is also a tendency to expand the notes by unnecessarily long statements of the facts of cases cited, as on pages 189, 190. These, however, are largely matters of detail, unimportant if the work as a whole prove satisfactory.

GENERAL DIGEST, AMERICAN AND ENGLISH. Bi-Monthly Advance Sheets. Rochester: The Lawyers' Coöperative Publishing Co. No. 23. June, 1901. pp. 892. 8vo.

AMERICAN DIGEST. Advance Sheets. St. Paul: West Publishing Co. No. 163. June, 1901. pp. xii, 892. 8vo.

Except for covers and advertising pages these books are absolutely identical. They purport to digest English as well as American cases, and a considerable number of legal periodicals. **GENERAL DIGEST**, cover page; **AMERICAN DIGEST**, iii. A cursory examination, however, has disclosed but few cases not found in the West Publishing Company's Reporters; and the digesting of legal periodicals is noticeably incomplete.

With the great multiplication of law reports a help in finding one's way among the cases is increasingly necessary. The publications at hand are designed to meet this need in part, by furnishing an index of current case-law. As indexes they appear inadequate in material and in arrangement. They consist mainly of head-notes, or parts of head-notes, copied *verbatim* from the reports and arranged under a fixed number of digest-heads. This use of head-notes swells the digests with useless statements of facts, and renders it unnecessarily difficult to find illustrations of principles. Further, head-notes frequently do not exactly express the questions involved in the cases. Nor is the arrangement of these works well adapted to an index. In an orderly statement of legal principles the number of main divisions is comparatively few. An index of this kind, however, aiming not to state principles but to afford access to scattered cases and discussions, for its different purpose requires a different arrangement. One consults it to find material in the volumes indexed bearing

upon some particular point. He thinks of that point by its special name, and not by the name of that large division of the law under which it may belong in a scientific classification. In an index, therefore, convenience is promoted if every legal principle with a definite and commonly used name has a separate index-head. It follows that the number of heads should be limited only by the variety of the materials indexed. In these digests the collection of many head-notes under general titles results in much confusion.

OUTLINES OF THE LAW OF REAL PROPERTY. By L. W. McCandless.

Ann Arbor: George Wahr. 1901.

This work consists of analytical tables intended to illustrate the second volume of Blackstone. Starting with property in general, the author makes many divisions and subdivisions, and carries on this process until he has made a complete skeleton of the law of real property. The work is planned on so large a scale that it has been found necessary to divide it into nineteen parts in order that it may be handled with any ease.

It is difficult to give such a book its proper place. Only students who have carefully studied the law of property will find it of service. There is, however, no doubt that in studying so vast a subject as real property, it is very necessary for the student to systematize his work with care and to take a comprehensive view of the whole subject and its different related parts as he proceeds. This is specially true when only a small share of one's time is devoted to this subject, for unless the student has a clear idea of the different divisions of the law and the relations of the different parts, the subject must seem like a mass of ancient learning, difficult to comprehend and still more difficult to remember. If, then, the student tabulates his work for himself, he will find the process of peculiar value, but this value comes more from the work of analyzing than from studying the tables. Those who have too little time or opportunity to do this work for themselves will doubtless derive some assistance from a work like the one in hand, but those who have the opportunity will profit more by doing such work without assistance. As the book goes so much more into details than is usual, and does not try to condense the work by many abbreviations, it will doubtless be of value for a hasty review before examinations.

A TABULATED DIGEST OF THE DIVORCE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES.

By Hugo Hirsh. New Edition. New York: Funk Wagnalls Co. 1901.

This digest purports to afford a concise view of the divorce laws in the different states. It is arranged in the form of a table, upon one large folded sheet, in such a way that, by reading from left to right, any particular cause for divorce may be traced and the law in regard to that cause in each state may be seen, while, by reading down the page, each column tells what the law of divorce in general is in each state. The work seems to be done as carefully as is possible with such conciseness, and it will be of service to one who desires but a brief and general idea of the divorce laws in the different states. A work so arranged, however, will be found awkward and difficult to handle by all who use it.